Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /080 W
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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT, KS

SUBJ: NDP CONVENTION

REF: A) SEOUL 1450 (DTG 220735Z FEB 78), B) SEOUL 1057 (DTG 080150Z FEB 78)

- 1. ON MARCH 15, A FORMAL REQUEST CALLING FOR CONVOCATION OF A PARTY CONVENTION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NDP. YAT'U (THE ASSOCIATION TO STRUGGLE FOR THE RESTORATION OF A TRUE OPPOSITION PARTY) PRESENTED SIGNATURES FROM 300 DELEGATES ENDORSING THE CALL FOR THE CONVENTION. KIM YONG-SAM SAID THAT YAT'U HAD ACTUALLY OBTAINED 365 SIGNATURES, BUT DECIDED NOT TO PUBLISH THE NAMES OF 65 DELEGATES WHO WOULD BE PLACED IN A DELICATE POSITION IN THE PARTY FOR HAVING BACKED THE SIGNATURE CAMPAIGN.
- 2. PARTY LEADER YI CH'OL SUNG REMAINS OPPOSED TO THE CONVENTION AND IN A PRESS CONFERENCE MARCH 22 IN CHONJU, HIS HOME DISTRICT, REJECTED YAT'U'S DEMAND AS UNREASONABLE. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MEMBERS OF YI'S FACTION STATED THAT YI'S POSITION WAS "A FINAL,OFFICIAL REPLY" TO NDP DISSIDENTS.

3. YAT'U SUPPORTERS HAVE ISSUED MANY STATEMENTS REIT-ERATING THEIR CALL FOR A CONVENTION, BUT KIM HYONG-IL, ONE OF FOUR NDP LEGISLATORS ASSOCIATED WITH THE YAT'U EFFORT, TOLD EMBOFF MARCH 24 THAT THERE WAS NO PRACTICAL WAY AT THIS POINT TO FORCE THE HOLDING OF A CONVENTION. YI WOULD BE ABLE TO IGNORE YAT'U'S DEMANDS WITH IMPUNITY, AND,KIM ASSERTED, SUCH OPTIONS AS HOLDING A RUMP CONVENTION WITH ONLY YAT'U DELEGATES PRESENT OR FORMING A NEW OPPOSITION PARTY WERE REJECTED OUT OF HAND BY EVEN THE MOST ARDENT MEMBERS OF YAT'U.

4. COMMENT: WE WILL PROBABLY HEAR MUCH MORE NOISE FROM YAT'U ON THE CONVENTION ISSUE, BUT IT APPEARS THAT YI'S OPPONENT HAVE VERY LITTLE CHANCE FOR SUCCESS. SNEIDER

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